



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jonathan H. Young et al. Art Unit : 2654
Serial No. : 09/390,370 Examiner : Angela Armstrong
Filed : September 7, 1999
Title : EXPANDING AN EFFECTIVE VOCABULARY OF A SPEECH
RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY TO ACTION OF JANUARY 29, 2004

In reply to the Office Action of January 29, 2004, applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 and 11-55 are pending with claims 1, 34, 35, 37, 46, and 51 being independent.

Claims 1, 2, 11-21, 30-33, 36, 37 and 46-55 have been rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,212,498 (Sherwood) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,765,132 (Roberts) and U.S. Patent No. 6,092,044 (Baker). Claims 3-9, 22-29, 34 and 38-45 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Sherwood in view of Roberts, Baker and U.S. Patent No. 5,835,888 (Kanevsky). Claim 35 has been rejected as being obvious over Sherwood in view of Roberts. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections for the reasons noted below.

Claims 1, 2, 11-21, 30-33 and 46-55

Independent claim 1 relates to a method of expanding an effective active vocabulary of a speech recognition system. Recognition candidates are received from a speech recognizer that performs speech recognition using a set of acoustic models representative of an active vocabulary of the system. The set of acoustic models includes models of words and models of word fragments.

When the received recognition candidate includes a word fragment, a determination is made as to whether the word fragment may be combined with one or more adjacent word